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Chairman: Mr. Balarezo ..... (Peru)

Contents

Agenda item 85: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

(b) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

(g) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.

Agenda item 85: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.16

1. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.16 entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session". The Group of 77 and China was pleased that the UNEP Governing Council had initiated the process that would lead to the adoption of a strategic plan for capacity-building and technology support. The resolution noted, inter alia, the differences of views expressed on the complex but important issue of universal membership of the UNEP Governing Council and reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP, including increased financial allocations from the United Nations regular budget.

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.6

2. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.6 entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In paragraph 9, the words "and other relevant resolutions", should be deleted and replaced by the words "and the decisions of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development".

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.15

3. **Mr. Nazarov** (Tajikistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.15 entitled "Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources" on behalf of the sponsors. The International Year had helped to increase awareness of the link between the use of freshwater and sustainable development. Water issues were now firmly ensconced among the global priorities of international cooperation. The sponsors of the draft resolution, which was intended to build on the previous year's resolution, hoped that the adoption of a new resolution would spur all United Nations agencies and bodies to develop practical activities geared towards achieving the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life".

(b) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.10

4. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.10 entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". He drew attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, noting that the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would afford the international community an opportunity to rededicate itself to the sustainable development of those States.

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.17

5. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.17 entitled "Promoting an integrated approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The resolution recognized the importance of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations, called for an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea to support the sustainable development of countries of the region and asked the United Nations and the international community to support efforts aimed at protecting the sea from degradation.

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7

6. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7 entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction". The Group of 77 and China had consistently highlighted the enormous human and financial toll taken by natural disasters on developing countries. The resolution stressed, inter

alia, the importance of a holistic approach to disasters and the need to integrate disaster reduction in development plans and poverty eradication programmes and stressed the need for a better understanding of disasters and the importance of capacity-building, while calling on the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.11

7. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.11 entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.8

8. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Mexico, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.8 entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon". Noting that the phenomenon was of great concern to members of the Group of 77 and China, he drew attention to paragraph 3 of the resolution.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13

9. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13 entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and drew attention to the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2 and 4.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.14

10. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) introduced, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.14 entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa". The Group of 77 and China remained concerned at the increasing rate of desertification, which frustrated the efforts of the affected countries to eradicate poverty. The Convention was an important tool for poverty eradication. He highlighted in particular paragraphs 2, 4 and 7 of the resolution.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.12

11. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.12 entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" and drew attention to the second preambular paragraph and paragraphs 2, 5 and 8.

(g) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.9

12. **Ms. Yamamoto** (Japan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.9 entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" and drew attention to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4. She expressed the hope that more delegations would join in sponsoring the text.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.